## **IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A recursive motion vector estimation method, comprising the steps of:

a) for a current block of a picture divided into a plurality of blocks, and based on motion information generated for the previously-processed block if any and if immediately to the left of said current block, the blocks being processed by said method in a predetermined order, generating (E) a plurality of candidate vectors from stored vectors (PV);

b) selecting (E) one of these candidate vectors to generate a selected vector (d1);

c) generating (REF) a plurality of test vectors from the selected vector (d<sup>1</sup>);

<u>d)</u> selecting (REF) one of the test vectors to generate an output vector (d<sup>2</sup>); [and]

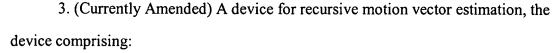
e) storing (MEM) the output vector (d²);- and

f) re-executing steps a) through f) for a next-to-be-processed block, if any, as said current block.

2. (Currently Amended) A recursive motion vector estimation method,
comprising the steps of:

generating (E) a plurality of candidate vectors from stored vectors (PV);
selecting (E) one of these candidate vectors to generate a selected vector (d¹);
generating (REF) a plurality of test vectors from the selected vector (d¹);
selecting (REF) one of the test vectors to generate an output vector (d²); and
storing (MEM) the output vector (d²)[A method as claimed in claim 1], wherein
said step of generating a plurality of test vectors from the selected vector (d¹) includes the
step of adding -1, 0, or +1 to each component of the selected vector (d¹).





a) for a current block of a picture divided into a plurality of blocks, and based on motion information generated for the previously-processed block if any and if immediately to the left of said current block, the blocks being processed by said method in a predetermined order, means (E) for generating a plurality of candidate vectors from stored vectors;

<u>b)</u> means (E) for selecting one of these candidate vectors to generate a selected vector (d<sup>1</sup>);

 $\underline{c}$ ) means (REF) for generating a plurality of test vectors from the selected vector  $(d^1)$ ;

 $\underline{d}$  means (REF) for selecting one of the test vectors to generate an output vector  $(d^2)$ ; [and]

e) means (MEM) for storing the output vector (d<sup>2</sup>);- and

f) means for re-executing steps a) through f) for a next-to-be-processed block, if any, as said current block.

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